

April 1547. Among the prisoners was the elector himself.¹ So you now recognise me as emperor," said Charles contemptuously as the captive elector made a move to kiss his hand, with the exclamation, " Mighty and Gracious Emperor." " I am nothing but a poor prisoner to-day," was the reply, " yet your imperial majesty will treat me, I trust, as a born prince." " I will treat you as you deserve," was the snappish retort. Charles was too vindictive to be magnanimous, and the elector was sentenced to death as a traitor, deprived of his territory in favour chiefly of Maurice, kept a prisoner in the camp before Wittenberg, and forced to sign the capitulation of the city which Luther had made the capital of a new religion.

The great reformer had been spared the experience of living to witness the discomfiture of his cause. Fully a year before the battle of Miihlberg was fought, he had shut his eyes for ever on the scene of his conflicts and his triumphs. Three days after the capitulation of Wittenberg, Charles entered the Castle Church and paused before his tomb. Since the Diet of Worms, when the intrepid monk had borne himself so stoutly in face of the assembled majesty of the empire, what a revolution had transformed Germany as the result of his conviction and his courage! A power that had for centuries been the law of men's minds and consciences had been shattered, and even the imperial power had trembled in the mighty upheaval. If ever the shrine of the dead could command the homage of the living, it might well be rendered here; and though Charles had no reason to love the greatest rebel of the age, whom death had removed beyond the range of his resentment, he seems to have been impressed by the mighty personality of the greatest of his antagonists. " Let him lie," he is reported to have said, in response to the barbarous suggestion of Alva and the Bishop of Arras to unearth and burn his remains—" Let him lie; he has his judge; I war with the living, not with the dead."

The surrender and imprisonment of the landgrave completed his triumph. With the exception of Magdeburg, which stoutly held out, all Germany lay at his feet. Yet he was not really much stronger for his success. The victory over Lutheranism was a victory for the Habsburg dynasty as